October 2011

ECOCERT CANADA

UPDATE

New EU Code

Since the Canadian Organic Standard is now equivalent to the European standard, the European Union has assigned Ecocert a specific certifiers code: **CA-ORG-006.** This code must be used on the labels of products made with 100% Canadian agricultural ingredients exported to Europe. If you are not directly exporting your products to Europe, this change will not affect your labels. For more information, please contact Ecocert Canada or visit our website at **www.ecocertcanada.com**.

NOP

The Canada Organic Office has published a letter for buyers confirming that products certified according to the Canadian Organic Standards and the equivalency agreement between Canada and the US don't have to be certified NOP. The COR+ equivalency agreement US-Canada allows you to sell your products in the US as well as to countries who use the NOP without using the USDA logo. During a recent meeting with Mr. McEvoy, NOP agent, it was clearly stated that it is forbidden to issu an NOP certificat in Canada. You can find the letter on our website **www.ecocertcanada.com** under Forms and Documents.

New Labelling Directive

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has issued a new labelling directive for organic products sold on the Canadian market. Please visit our website to read this document http://www.ecocertcanada.com/content/documents-and-forms

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ORGANIC WEEK

Canadian Organic Growers (www.cog.ca) is celebrating Organic Week across Canada from October 15th to 22nd 2011. www.organicweek.ca

CFIA: Questions and Answers

The final version of the first set of questions and answers on the organic products regulations are now published on their website at: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/francais/fssa/orgbio/comquestf.shtml

Export Possibilities

The Canadian Organic Trade Association (http://www.ota.com/otacanada.html) has actively assisted in the promotion and growth of the Canadian organic sector through its International Marketing Strategy under the AgriMarketing Program. On the horizon, COTA has its sights on Natural Products Expo East (Baltimore) and the World Organic Fair and IFOAM World Congress (South Korea). To participate or learn more about COTA's International Marketing Strategy, contact Matthew Holmes mholmes@ota.com or 613-482-1717.

LOSOC: List of products whose certification has been suspended

The CAEQ has created a searchable database called LOSOC (*List of Operators Subject to Organic Certification)* permitting many types of searches for Canadian and Quebecois organic products whose certification has been temporarily or permanently suspended. This list can be accessed at **www.losoc.info**

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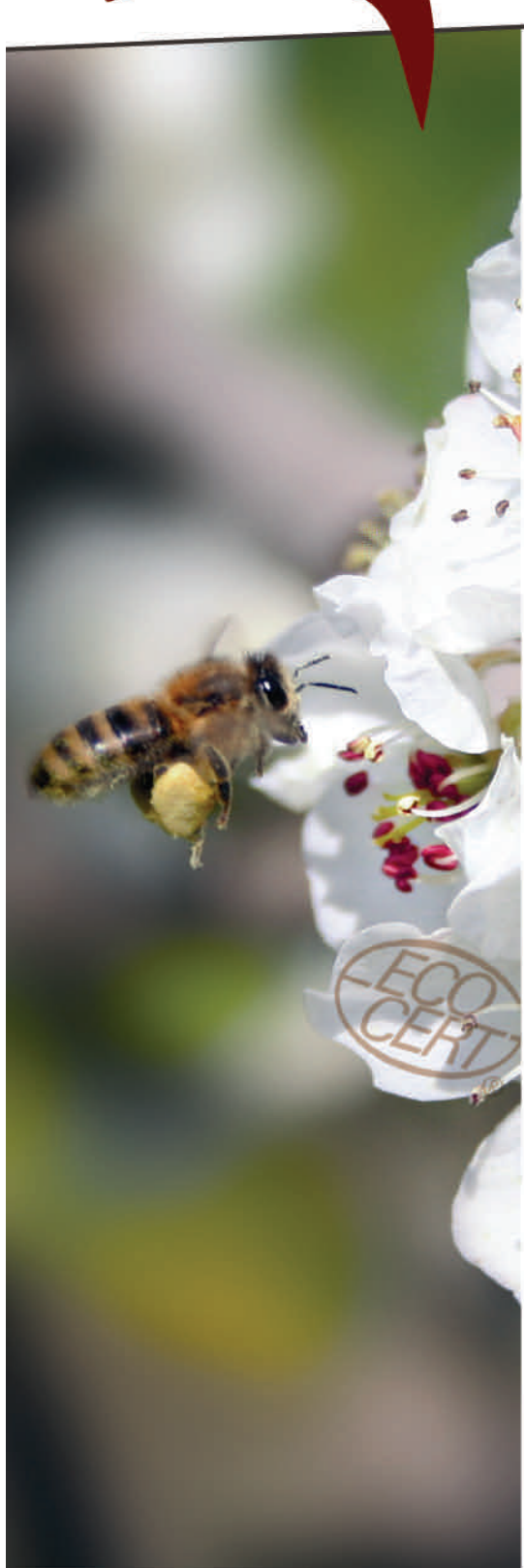

REGULATORY INFORMATION

Modifications to the Canadian standards: poultry and pork

Changes have been made this summer to standards concerning organic poultry and pork production. Here are the abreviated modifications:

Livestock Living Conditions	The floor shall not be entirely of slatted or grid construction. Solid flooring is preferred but where nonslip slatted floors exist, the floor design shall ensure that the foot of the smallest animal cannot be caught in a void. Areas between the voids shall be at least the width of the foot of the animals. (6.8.1.h)
Poultry	Surfaces to perch shall be provided for all laying hens at not less than 18 cm/hen. (6.8.11.4)
	Exits shall allow the passage of more than one bird at a time. (6.8.11.5)
	Houses with slatted floors shall have 30% min. of solid floor area with sufficient litter available for dust baths, scratching and foraging. (6.8.11.6)
	Natural light shall be provided indoors for all poultry. (6.8.11.8)
Pork	Farrow to finish operators shall not exceed 2.5 sows/ha. (6.8.13.1)
	Pigs shall have access to outdoor exercise areas. Access to pasture is recommended but not mandatory. (6.8.13.2)
	Sows shall be kept in groups, except in the last stages of pregnancy and during the suckling period. Restraint is allowed for a maximum of 5 days when needed for piglet protection. (6.8.13.3)
	Piglets shall not be kept on flat decks or in piglet cages. (6.8.13.5)
	The use of nose rings is prohibited. (6.8.13.8)

The complete version of these modifications can be found in the Canadian Organic Standards and can be found on our website www.ecocertcanada.com

IN THE FIELD

Inputs

INPUTS ECOCERT Approved by Ecocert

It is now possible to use the Input: Appoved by Ecocert logo on the lables of agricultural inputs that are registered in the input approval program. An annual inspection is required to be able to use the logo. Please contact Ecocert Canada for more information.

Grain Transaction Certificate

If you require additional guarantee at a sale or purchase of grain, it is possible to obtain a transaction certificate from Ecocert. The approach is simple, you fill in the certificate template (available on request) and then we validate the quantity and certification of the producer. The issuance of this document is $ 10 and it is optional.